

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 7-11 were previously pending for examination, with claim 7 being the sole independent claim. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended; claim 8 has been canceled because its subject matter has been added to claim 7. Thus, claims 7 and 9-11 are pending for examination. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 8-11 recite allowable subject matter. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, claims 7 and 9-11 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Elgas (EP 1086712 A2) in view of Stringer (US 6,960,322).

Without acceding to the propriety of the purported combination, claim 7 has been amended, as discussed above, to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 under §103 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

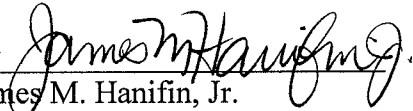
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any necessary fee to Deposit

Account No. 23/2825, under Order No. H0075.70113US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 1/22/10

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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